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Letter dated 24 October 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Recalling my letter addressed to you on 5 January 2017 and my meetings with you on 25 January, with the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 10 January and with the Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs on 21 March, I have the honour to send the present letter to you with regard to organizing an international forum of legal experts, which was proposed to the United Nations Secretariat to clarify the legal grounds of the Security Council's "sanctions resolutions" against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

As the questions about the legal and moral justifications for the Security Council's "sanctions resolutions" are now increasing in the international community, the proposed international forum of legal experts would be the most appropriate place where the legality of the "sanctions resolutions" could be evaluated from the viewpoint of justice and fairness.

The following issues could be debated as agenda items in the forum:

(a) Are the Security Council's "sanction resolutions" that prohibit the DPRK's satellite launches in conformity with international law, which clearly stipulates that the peaceful use of outer space is an inalienable sovereignty of States?

(b) Do the Security Council's "sanction resolutions" that prohibit the DPRK's nuclear tests have legal validity under the situation in which the international law on a total ban on nuclear tests has not yet come into effect?

(c) Do the permanent members of the Security Council who prevent the international law on a total ban on nuclear tests from coming into effect have any moral justification to prohibit the nuclear tests of other countries?

(d) The Security Council condemned the nuclear tests and satellite launches by the DPRK only as "threats to international peace and security" and imposed sanctions without taking issue with such tests and launches by other countries. Are those double standards of the Security Council in conformity with Articles 2 and 51

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of the Charter of the United Nations, which recognize the principles of sovereign equality and the right to self-defence of countries?

Besides those issues, the participants in the forum may propose that other issues be adopted as agenda items.

We would once again ask the United Nations Secretariat to organize the international forum of legal experts at the earliest possible date, as requested.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 65, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative